

Application No. 10/817,526
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-4 is respectfully acknowledged.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their parent claim 1.

In addition, claims 2-4 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 2-4 be approved and entered, and it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 2-4 are all in condition for immediate allowance.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to more positively recite inserting a ring of the nonmagnetic material into an annular space formed between the inner member and the outer member so as to be tightly

Application No. 10/817,526
Response to Office Action

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fitted therein, as supported by the disclosure in paragraphs 0024-0031 in the specification.

In addition, claim 1 has also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements to put it in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 1 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that USP 3,872,275 ("Rudd") does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby a ring of the nonmagnetic material is inserted into an annular space formed between the inner member and the outer member so as to be tightly fitted therein; whereby each of an inner and an outer peripheral surface of the ring of nonmagnetic material are brought into a semi-molten state; and whereby the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said ring of nonmagnetic material are brought into pressure contact with said inner and outer members, respectively, to join said inner and outer peripheral surfaces to said respective inner and outer members by interfacial fusion.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, along with allowable claims 2-4, clearly

Application No. 10/817,526
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

patentably distinguishes over Rudd, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

CLAIM FEE

The application as amended now contains 4 claims, all of which are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$100.00 for the addition of 1 extra independent claim (for a small entity) is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

RE: THE PRIORITY DOCUMENT

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which was filed with the original application papers on April 1, 2004, and which was received by the USPTO, as indicated in the attached listing of the contents of the Image File Wrapper of the application from the PAIR system.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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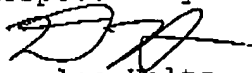
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Application No. 10/817,526
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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